

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/376,651

Examiner

Ren L Yan

Applicant(s)

AOYAMA, NOBORU

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendments filed on 3/22/2004 and 8/23/2004, and telephone interview of 9/15/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-38.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 9/3/03, 3/22/04.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Victor on 9-15-2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 2, line 12, the phrase --the at least-- has been inserted before the word "one";

In claim 4:

- a. line 2, the phrase --at least one-- has been inserted before the word "align"; and
- b. line 2, the phrase "rollers have" has been changed to --roller has--.

In claim 12, second line from the end, the word "one", first occurrence, has been changed to --the-- and the phrase --one of the at least-- has been added before the word "one", second occurrence.

In claim 13, line 2, the phrase "align rollers have" has been changed to --at least one align roller has--.

In claim 18:

a. line 9, the phrase --at least one-- has been inserted before the word "align" and the word "and" has been deleted; and

b. line 11, the phrase --the at least-- has been inserted before the word "one".

In claim 19, line 8, the phrase --at least one-- has been inserted before the word "align".

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In claim 20, last line, the phrase --at least one-- has been inserted before the word “align”.

In claim 21:

a. lines 9 and 10, the text “in the path by the at least one align roller” has been changed to --the align rollers--; and

b. last line, the word “one”, first occurrence, has been changed to --the-- and the phrase --one of the at least-- has been inserted before the word “one”, second occurrence.

In claim 22, line 1, the word --the-- has been inserted after the word “wherein”.

In claim 26, line 2, the word “vertical” has been changed to --second axis--.

In claim 28, line 2, the word “vertical” has been changed to --second axis--.

In claim 32, line 3, the phrase “align rollers contact” has been changed to --the at least one align roller contacts--.

In claim 33, line 3, the phrase --at least one-- has been inserted before the word “align”.

In claim 34, line 3, the phrase “align rollers contact” has been changed to --the at least one align roller contacts--.

In claim 35, line 3, the phrase --at least one-- has been inserted before the word “align”.

In claim 36:

a. line 2, the phrase “feed assistance” has been deleted;

b. line 3, the word --portion-- has been added after the word “member”; and

c. line 3, the phrase “align rollers contact” has been changed to --the at least one align roller contacts--.

In claim 37:

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a. line 2, the phrase "feed assistance" has been deleted and the word --portion-- has been inserted after the word "member"; and

b. line 3, the phrase --the at least one-- has been inserted before the word "align".

The above changes have been made to correct some minor oversights by the applicant and to place the application in condition for allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L Yan whose telephone number is 571-272-2173. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan
Sept. 15, 2004